

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4904

October 30, 2008

Mr. George W. Bush
The President
The White House
Washington DC, 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I am writing to express my grave disappointment that the report required under Pub. L. 110-252, section 9304(a), was not submitted to Congress by the deadline of October 28, 2008. This report is critical to our national security as it requires the Secretaries of Defense, State, and Homeland Security, in coordination with the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the Director of National Intelligence, to set forth the global strategy of the United States to combat and defeat al Qaeda and its affiliates.


With the situation along the Afghanistan-Pakistan border rapidly deteriorating and al Qaeda affiliates from Africa to Southeast Asia continuing to threaten our national security, this report is more important than ever. It is essential that we are coordinating all our resources as we address these global, regional and country-specific threats.

While I appreciate that your administration and U.S. Central Command are undertaking comprehensive reviews of our Afghanistan policy, the global strategy report required by the emergency supplemental is needed to place these reviews in the global context and ensure proper coordination among all relevant federal agencies. Undertaking this review without an appropriate analysis of existing threats around the world hampers our ability to develop plans for future scenarios.

As you know, the objective of this report is to determine how we can maximize all our political, humanitarian, intelligence, and military capabilities to best address our number one national security priority: defeating al Qaeda and its affiliates. The American people deserve to be told, to the extent possible without divulging classified information, what their government is doing to protect them. Furthermore, we here in Congress need this report to be able to conduct effective oversight over U.S. strategy and ensure we have the capabilities to execute it. The stakes for our own national security are too high to continue with short term, fragmented or misguided tactics that have little promise of success.

I look forward to receiving this delayed report as soon as possible.

Sincerely,



Russell D. Feingold
United States Senator

CC: Robert Gates, Secretary of Defense
Condoleezza Rice, Secretary of State
Michael Chertoff, Secretary of Homeland Security
Admiral Michael Mullen, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff
Michael McConnell, Director of National Intelligence